

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

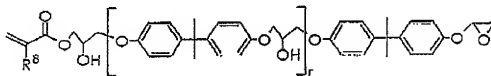
Claim 1 is amended. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found at p. 41, line 17-p. 42, line 4 of Applicant's specification. Claims 1-28 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1, 2, and 6-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masatoshi et al. (JP 2001-335703) taken with Nakacho et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,596,893) in view of Hook et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,711,389) and Tamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,195,857). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 1, as amended, is as follows:

A phosphazene compound, obtained by reacting a phenoxyphosphazene compound (A-1) having a phenolic hydroxyl group and/or a cross-linked phenoxyphosphazene compound (A-2) obtained by cross-linking the phenoxyphosphazene compound (A-1) with an epoxy compound (B) having an unsaturated double bond, wherein the phosphazene compound has an unsaturated double bond and a phenolic hydroxyl group in its molecule; and

the epoxy compound (B) is at least one epoxy compound selected from the group consisting of glycidylmethacrylate, glycidylacrylate, allylglycidylether, glycidylvinylether, and a compound represented by the following formula (10)



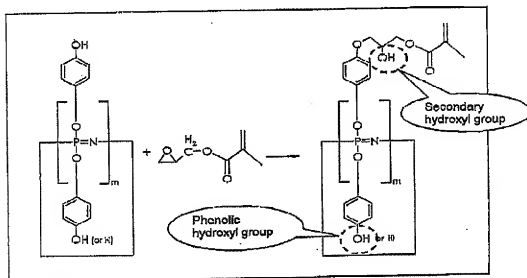
... (10)

wherein  $r$  represents an integer ranging from 0 to 40, and  $R^8$  represents H or a methyl group.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references cannot render claim 1 obvious, because the cited references fail to teach or suggest that "the phosphazene compound has an unsaturated double bond and a phenolic hydroxyl group in its molecule; and the epoxy compound (B) is at least one epoxy compound selected from the group consisting of glycidylmethacrylate, glycidylacrylate, allylglycidylether, glycidylvinylether, and a compound represented by the following formula (10)."

As shown in the following reaction formula, a phosphazene compound, recited in amended claim 1, obtained by reacting "a phenoxyphosphazene compound (A-1) having a phenolic hydroxyl group" with "an epoxy compound (B)" has, in its molecule, not only a phenolic hydroxyl group but also a secondary hydroxyl group (a hydroxyl group derived from an epoxide) generated by reacting an epoxide with a phenolic hydroxyl group.

The following is an example where the epoxy compound (B) is glycidylmethacrylate. Similarly, all of the epoxy compounds recited in amended claim 1 have "epoxide."



That is, a phosphazene compound of the present invention has a characteristic feature that, in its molecule, there are two kinds of hydroxyl groups, a "phenolic hydroxyl group" and a "secondary hydroxyl group (hydroxyl group derived from epoxide)." This feature allows the phosphazene compound to provide the following benefits: (i) improving compatibility with respect to a soluble polyimide resin; (ii) suppressing deposition of a flame retardant on the surface; and (iii) allowing formation of a mesh structure by reacting with an epoxy resin component in curing a photosensitive resin composition. (Applicant's specification, at p. 29, line 17-p. 30, line 9).

Although Masatoshi describes a phosphazene compound having, in its molecule, an aryl hydroxyl group, Masatoshi neither teaches nor suggests a phosphazene compound having, in its molecule, two kinds of hydroxyl groups, a phenolic hydroxyl group and a secondary hydroxyl group (hydroxyl group derived from epoxide).

Also, Nakacho, Hook, and Tamura fail to teach or suggest a phosphazene compound having, in its molecule, two kinds of hydroxyl groups, a phenolic hydroxyl group and a secondary hydroxyl group (hydroxyl group derived from epoxide). Since none of the cited references teach or suggest the above structure, it follows that none of the cited references provide the benefits of the present invention.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references cannot render claim 1 obvious, because the cited references fail to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation. Claims 2 and 6-12 depend from claim 1 and cannot be rendered obvious for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

Appl. No. 10/559,737  
Amdt. Dated July 16, 2010  
Reply to Office Action of April 19, 2010

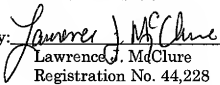
Attorney Docket No. 89227.0011  
Customer No. 26021

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4600 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,  
HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP

Date: July 16, 2010

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